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*Statistics of the North-West Provinces of British India.*

A VERY interesting document, recently presented to the Statistical Society by Colonel Sykes, gives a complete picture of the present state of statistical information in some of the principal provinces of the British empire in the East ; and is very interesting as affording a living picture in contemporary history of their usual growth from the first rude use which is made of them by some barbarous governments, to that scientific character which their observations assume to fulfil the more beneficent behests of a civilized régime. It is a Memoir on the Statistics of the North-Western Provinces of the Bengal Presidency, compiled from official documents under orders of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, by A. Shakespear, Esq., B.C.S., Assistant-Secretary to the Government, printed at Calcutta, in 1848. A table containing the undermentioned particulars respecting each of the thirty-one districts comprised in the five divisions into which the North-Western Provinces are distributed, was compiled as accurately as it was possible from the sources of information available at Agra; the columns of population having been filled up from different sources, sometimes from the revenue-surveyor's returns, sometimes from the statements in reports regarding education, or from Settlement Reports, or from new censuses taken subsequently to settlement, and separately reported by the collectors; all, however, subject to inaccuracies from carelessness or wilful concealment, as well as from the omission of existing "mouzahs" or townships, or the retention of others which ought properly to have been excluded. In one authority (the Revenue Survey) the adult male population alone was sometimes included while the entire population of large cities was excluded. The table thus compiled was transmitted, with a circular letter of instructions to the collectors of each district, for correction, by reference to the records and the best-informed subordinate officers in each; but "as any census based on the actual enumeration of the people would probably be vexatious and erroneous," it was deemed better to "test the population-returns by a rough estimate of the number of houses in each village, which may be ascertained from the Chowkeedar, Putwanee, or a person specially deputed for the purpose. The number of houses being thus ascertained, the number of persons actually resident in a certain number may be counted, and the average applied to the whole; the value of the result depending upon the care and discrimination with which this is done. All persons who derive their subsistence in whole or in part from the land, whether in the form of wages or rent, should be entered as cultivators, even though they may have other sources of income. The enumeration should take place in those houses or villages where the object of the process is most likely to be understood, and where the co-operation of the Zemindars and other influential inhabitants can be secured; distinct averages being assumed for different classes of population. Thus the average in cities and towns may be different from that in villages; the average in puckha houses from that in cutcha houses; in one pergunnah from another; in Mahomedan families from Hindoo, or Brahmin, or Rajpoot, or Chunar, or Parsee families." The returns of this nature given in by the Tuhseeldars

were then to be critically examined by the collector, with reference to the probable truth on the face of the return, and extraordinary divergencies from it to be subjected to further investigation; and, with regard to territorial measurements, it was always to be stated whether they had been according to the European scientific or the native 'khusrah' method. The spirit of the Government in making these investigations appears incidentally in very favourable relief in the cautions addressed to the collectors, the terms of which, as of the whole communication, were translated into Oordoo, and, with the rough statistical table, extensively circulated, in order that the native as well as the European officers of the Government might be fully apprised of the object in view.

*Revised Statistical Return of Area, Population, and Land Revenue, in the Six Districts of the North-Western Provinces (Delhi, Meerut, Rohilkund, Agra, Allahabad, and Benares), comprising Thirty-one Collectors' Districts, prepared in the Year 1848.*

1. Divisions .....	5
2. Districts .....	31
3. Number of mouzahs, or townships .....	80,883
4. Area in statute miles, British .....	71,985
5. Area in statute acres, British .....	46,070,658

*Malgoozaree, or Assessed Land.*

6. Cultivated acres .....	23,112,183
7. Cultivable acres .....	9,816,749

*Minhaee, or Unassessed Land.*

8. Lakhiraj acres .....	1,733,443
9. Barren acres .....	11,408,283
10. Demand on account of land revenue for 1846-7—rupees .....	4,05,29,921
11. Rate per acre on total area—rupees .....	0,14,1
12. Rate per acre on total malgoozaree—rupees .....	1,3,8
13. Rate per acre on total cultivation—rupees .....	1,12,1
14. Gross collections of land revenue in 1846-7—rupees .....	4,05,35,763
15. Charges of full revenue establishments in collectors' and district offices—rupees .....	26,17,264
16. Per centage of revenue charges on demand for 1846-7 .....	6,7,4
17. Net stamp collections, 1846-7—rupees .....	12,33,903
18. Net stamp abkaree collections, 1846-7—rupees .....	16,60,901

*Population.—Hindoos.*

19. Agricultural .....	13,127,956
20. Non-agricultural .....	6,324,690

*Mahommedans and others not Hindoo.*

21. Agricultural .....	1,596,277
22. Non-agricultural .....	2,150,745

*Total and Averages of Population.*

23. Total population .....	23,199,668
24. Number of persons to each square British statute mile .....	322·3
25. Number of statute British acres to each person .....	1·99

It will be seen at a glance to what an extent the earliest statistics of a country, as here exhibited, are purely administrative; and yet all the results are highly instructive; relating as they do to a population considerably more than that of Great Britain. There can be little

suspicion of excess in the population-returns, where an apprehension of coming taxes would tend so strongly rather to keep the returns under the true total, and yet here is a population as dense as that of the most thickly peopled parts of Europe, sustained on about four-sevenths of the soil, of which nearly one-half of the remainder is cultivable though yet uncultivated. Again, the Hindoo base of the population is equally obvious in its gross total of 19,452,646, and in the fact of two-thirds of it being attached to the soil; while of the remaining 3,747,022 Mahomedans and others, only three-sevenths are agricultural.

The density of the population in comparison with that of the principal states of Europe will appear from the following table, extracted from the report; and the future prospects of statistics in the North-West Provinces is well described in its concluding passages, which bear an evidence not the less gratifying because only incidental to the consolidation of internal peace and the growth of those ameliorations to which it is essential.

TABLE I.

COUNTRIES.	Population.	Area in Square British Statute Miles.	Average Population to Square Statute Mile.	Number of Acres to each Person.
Great Britain (Census of 1851) .....	18,535,786	83,827	221	2·89
England ditto .....	14,995,508	50,387	297	2·15
Ireland ditto .....	8,175,124	26,881	304	2·10
Scotland ditto .....	2,628,957	26,014	101	6·33
Wales ditto .....	911,321	7,426	123	5·21
France (exclusive of Corsica) ditto....	33,333,019	200,925	169	3·87
Prussia .....	14,154,198	110,170	128	4·98
Belgium .....	4,064,235	12,569	323	1·98
Russia in Europe (exclusive of Poland) .....	41,973,650	1,439,784	29	21·98
North-Western Provinces, 31 districts, 1847-48 .....	23,199,668	71,985	322	1·99

Notwithstanding the exertions that have been made to insure fidelity in these returns, it is evident from the preceding detail that they cannot be received as accurate. There is great reason to believe that they are still considerably below the truth. This presumption is strengthened by observing that the number of females is always reported to be much less than that of the males, whenever the sexes are distinguished. It is almost impossible that there should be such a difference as is often reported; and as it is not likely that the number of males is overrated, it is more than probable that the number of females is concealed.

Inquiries of this nature are still new in the country; the prejudices and apprehensions of the people have hitherto resisted their prosecution; but these prejudices have now given way.